

THE

MONTHLY



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MARCH MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 11th inst., at 8 o'clock sharp, in the Lecture Hall of the California Development Board, Ferry Building.

A meeting of the Board of Directors is called for 7:40 p. m. at the same place, and it is important that this meeting be held promptly, to make way for the general meeting at 8:00 p. m.

Miss Elizabeth F. Burnell, A. M., Univ. Mich., will address the Association on the subject of "Nature Notes on a Rocky Mountain Trail," presenting interesting data from a district with which few of our members are familiar.

Dr. H. C. Bryant, of the Department of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Honorary Member of the Association, will favor us with a lecture on the "Shore Birds of San Francisco Bay," illustrated by specimens. This will provide an indoor field trip for those who balk at Bay Farm Island and will be acceptable also to those who have found themselves baffled by the birds afield.



MARCH FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, March 14, with the general object of exploring certain attractive areas in the vicinity of Haywards. Further details will be announced at the meeting on Thursday next.

San Francisco members will take 8:40 a. m. Southern Pacific boat, transferring to Melrose car at Oakland Mole. Leave train at Melrose Station at 9:25 a. m. and take the next Traction car carrying a Haywards sign and ride to the end of the line, where the party will form upon the arrival of this car about 10:15 o'clock.

East Bay members should take Haywards car leaving 12th and Washington or 13th and Washington Streets, Oakland, at 9:15 a. m. Bring lunch and canteens.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING: The thirty-seventh regular meeting of the Association was held on the 12th of February, in the Ferry Building, with President D'Evelyn in the chair; Mrs. C. R. Smith, Secretary. Members in attendance: Mesdames Kelly, Kibbe, Kosby, Marsh, Leggett, Rosemont; Misses Ames, Ayer, Drachman, Burroughs, Griffin, King, Potter, Raphael; Messrs. Bell, Douglas, Hansen, Kibbe, Leggett, Marsh, Michael, Smith. Visitors: Mesdames Michael, Reygadas, Starrett and G. T. Roe; Misses Black, Burnell, Drachman; Messrs. Joseph Dixon, G. E. Kelly, Ralph Vincent and Wayne Murphy.

The question of place for future meetings was broached by the President and upon motion of Mr. Smith it was resolved to take a referendum by mail for the purpose of securing an expression of opinion by the entire membership.

Mr. Marsh laid stress upon the invitation extended by the Association to all bird lovers to attend the meetings and urged the members to avail themselves freely of their privilege of bringing guests to all meetings and field trips.

Mr. Joseph Dixon then gave the members a rare treat in his discourse upon the "Nesting Habits of the Bohemian Waxwing on the Stickney River, Alaska," illustrated by slides of great scientific and artistic value. General views of the territory and of the breeding grounds were followed by intimate views of the mother birds incubating, brooding and feeding the young and then came the family about to fare forth and take up the problems of making a living and dodging collectors. To the lecturer's credit be it noted that these birds did not have to dodge him.



Lack of space is accountable for the omission from the February Bulletin of the names of members elected at the Board Meeting on January 27th. These welcome accessions were: Mrs. R. M. Leggett, Mrs. G. T. Marsh, Mrs. H. P. Rosemont, Mrs. C. A. Rossier, Miss Henrietta Burroughs, Miss Alice Potter, Mr. Charles Grosjean and Mr. J. H. Spohn, Jr. We look forward to the pleasure of announcing five or more additional names at the next meeting.



REFERENDUM BALLOT

Enclosed with this issue of the "Gull," members will find a ballot slip upon which each one is invited to record his or her preference in the matter of place at which meetings of the Association shall be held. These should be marked, signed by the member, and forwarded to Mrs. Carl R. Smith, Recording Secretary, 563 Forty-second Ave., San Francisco, not later than Wednesday, March 10th, in order that they may be canvassed and the result announced at the meeting on the 11th.

It has been proposed that meetings be held in the auditorium of the Phelan Building, corner Market St. and Grant Ave. This hall has a capacity about four times that of the present meeting room in the Ferry Building. The regular charge for its use is over four times that made for our present quarters, but President D'Evelyn has invited the Association to use the Phelan Building auditorium at the same cost as at present.

Arguments in Favor of the Proposed Change:

1. More commodious quarters.
2. More ornate surroundings.
3. More central location.

Arguments Against the Proposed Change:

1. Hall now in use has never been filled to exceed three-quarters of its comfortable capacity, and only occasionally to more than one-third. There is therefore no occasion at this time to provide for a four-fold increase.
2. Present hall is clean, neat and sanitary.
3. While the Phelan Building may be more centrally located in respect of city of San Francisco, it is in no sense nearer the center of the attending membership. The proposed change would not make attendance any easier or less expensive for any resident of the city, but it would impose additional expense and material inconvenience upon every member living across the bay. San Francisco members now have to travel five or six minutes longer in the same car, passing the Phelan Building, to reach the Ferry Building. East Bay members would have to make an additional car trip and pay two more fares. Whereas they can now catch a ferry boat within two minutes after leaving meeting, it would be necessary to allow twenty minutes or

more from the Phelan auditorium to the ferry, and if they miss a boat, they must wait forty minutes for the next one.

Forty minutes is the maximum time required for any San Francisco member to reach the Ferry Building and the average time is probably less than twenty-five minutes. The average time for East Bay members is now fifty minutes and the change to the Phelan Building would increase this to sixty-five minutes.

East Bay members now constitute fully one-half the attendance at meetings and expend more than their annual dues in excess transportation. Other societies have felt impelled to meet alternately in San Francisco and Oakland to equalize such conditions, but the present proposition would enhance the difficulties of all trans-bay members.

4. The Association cannot afford the increased cost, and it should not solicit nor accept contributions toward its necessary operating expenses, but should take pride in paying its way and in living within its means. When the present quarters become too small, the membership and income of the Association will have increased sufficiently to justify a larger auditorium.

A. S. KIBBE.



DATA ON BIRD MIGRATIONS

The U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey has issued a strong appeal for the co-operation of bird observers in every part of the country in the work of securing data upon this interesting subject, the importance of which has been emphasized since the Migratory Bird Treaty Act became effective. Various members of the Cooper Club have indicated their willingness to take part in these observations and it has been suggested that a considerable number of members of our Association might be enlisted for the present and future seasons.

The information required is as follows:

1. Name of Bird?
2. When was it first seen?
3. About how many were seen?
4. When was it next seen?
5. When did it become common?
6. When was it last seen?
7. Is it common or rare?
8. Does it breed near your station?

Observations should commence immediately, to cover the Spring migration. Forms will be furnished together with full instructions to any members who will undertake to do what they can to further this work. If any members should feel that lack of time and opportunity had prevented the accumulation of sufficient observations to justify a separate report it might very well be that the combined results of the partial observations would comprise complete data of material value and the Committee on Research and Records will gladly undertake the work of compiling and forwarding a combined report of such observations in the names of the observers and of the Association.

We now have a goodly number of members who are fully qualified to make such observations and the labor imposed thereby is very slight. It will bring its own reward in the amusement and instruction afforded while at the same time will be contributing very directly to the furtherance of the objects of the Association—the study and the protection of birds.

Members who are willing to co-operate are requested to advise Mrs. Carl R. Smith, Recording Secretary, immediately.

THE GULL

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP followed the familiar paths through Golden Gate Park on Sunday, February 15th, with record-breaking lists of members, guests, and birds observed.

On the bay were found Western grebe, glaucous winged, Western and California gulls; cormorants, surf, and white winged scooters. In the Park: pied-bill grebe, mallard, baldpate, green-winged teal and shoveller; pintail, canvasback, lesser scaup and buffle head; ruddy duck, lesser snow goose and white-fronted goose; Canada goose and Hutehins or cackling geese; whistling swan; coots, kildeer, quail and a hawk; willow woodpecker, flicker, Anna and Allen hummers; black phoebe, meadow lark, California jay, purple finch and linnets; Sierra crossbill, pine siskin, Nuttall and golden-crowned sparrow; juneo, song sparrow, fox sparrow and San Francisco towhee; cedar waxwings; myrtle and Audubon warblers; salt marsh yellow-throat, Vigors wren and red-breasted nuthatch; chickadees, bush-tit, golden-crowned and ruby-crowned kinglets; hermit thrush, Western robin and varied thrush. Fifty-six species. Each species of duck mentioned was represented in both sexes.

Members present were: Mesdames Douglas, Kelly, Kibbe, Leggett, Roe and Rosemont; Misses Ames, Ayer, Henrietta Burroughs, Cassiday, L. Drachman, Flynn, Griffin, Gunn, Johnson, Potter, Schroder and Wilson; Messrs. Bell, Douglas, Hansen, Kibbe, Leggett, Thomas and George Wright.

We were accompanied by guests as follows: Mesdames Bridges and Reygadas; Misses Applegarth, Burnell, Helen Burroughs and Draehman; Messrs. Bridges, Ryan, Arthur Goodwin and Robert Birdman. Twenty-five members and ten guests.



MELOSPIZA MELODIA MONOPOLIZES TRAP: A correspondent writes in querulous mood that she set a funnel trap in her garden recently for the purpose of putting a nick into the local population of *Passer Domesticus*. At breakfast time, on the first day, a female song sparrow entered. Her mate created such a commotion around the trap that the occupant was released. Twenty minutes later, they were both inside. An hour after they were released, they were back inside, trying to get out. Released for the third time, the female wandered in again and was again evicted. This sort of thing so appealed to a Nuttall sparrow that he tried it himself, and all this time the English sparrows sat around on the fence and held their sparrow sides, descending betimes to consume the bait on the outside. Query: Has a song sparrow no business of his own to mind?

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month in Lecture Room of California Development Board,
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Every one welcome. Active Membership, \$3.00 per year, including Bulletin.

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